

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet having a three-dimensional optical appearance, comprising a base layer that is surface embossed on one side and a transparent cover layer based on PVC, ~~having a smooth surface facing away from the embossed base layer and~~ arranged on the embossed surface of the base layer, such that the embossed structure is transferred from the base layer in the underside of the cover layer, but not in the surface of the cover layer facing away from the embossed base layer,

wherein the transparent cover layer has a softening point lower than the base layer, or, when laminating the base layer and the transparent cover layer, the temperature on the side of the cover layer is higher than on the side of the base layer.

2. (original): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the transparent cover layer is printed on the surface facing the base layer.

3. (original): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the embossed surface of the base layer is printed.

4. (original): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein another layer is provided between the transparent cover layer and the embossed base layer.

5. (original): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 4, whereby the additional layer is printed on its surface which faces the cover layer.

6. (previously presented): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the base layer is a film.

7. (original): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the base layer is a laminate of at least two films.

8. (previously presented): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the transparent cover layer is a film.

9 (original): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the transparent cover layer is a laminate of at least two films.

10. (currently amended): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the transparent cover layer has an additional embossing on its surface facing away from the embossed base layer.

11. (original): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the embossing has a predetermined structure.

12. (original): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 10 or 11, wherein the predetermined structure is a profile with elevations and recesses, the average distance between the profile tips in the midline (S_m) being more than 200 μm and less than 1000 μm .

13. (previously presented): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the height of the elevations (peak-to-valley roughness) is in the range of 20 μm to 200 μm .

14. (previously presented): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the transparent cover layer and an additional layer optionally

provided between the cover layer and the base layer have a lower softening point than does the base layer.

15. (previously presented): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a finish or a lacquer is applied to the surface of the transparent cover layer.

16. (previously presented): Floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet as claimed in Claim 1, wherein an adhesive layer is provided on the surface of the base layer facing away from the clear layer.

17. (currently amended): Method for producing a floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheeting having a three-dimensional optical appearance, comprising the following steps:

providing a layer of a thermoplastic material and embossing a surface of the layer to obtain a base layer with surface embossing on one side,

providing a transparent cover layer of a thermoplastic material based on PVC ~~and having smooth surfaces,~~

arranging the transparent cover layer on the embossed surface of the base layer, such that the embossing of the base layer is transferred to the surface of the transparent cover layer which is in contact with the base layer, but not to the surface of the transparent cover layer facing away from the surface of the transparent cover layer which is in contact with the base layer, so that the multilayer floor covering of a multilayer plastic web or sheet with a three-dimensional optical appearance is obtained,

wherein the transparent cover layer has a softening point lower than the base layer, or, when laminating the base layer and the transparent cover layer, the temperature on the side of the cover layer is higher than on the side of the base layer.

18. (original): Method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the transparent cover layer is printed on the surface facing the base layer before being joined to the base layer.

19. (original): Method as claimed in Claim 17 or 18, wherein the embossed surface of the base layer is printed before being joined to the transparent cover layer.

20. (previously presented): Method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein before joining the layers, another layer is introduced between the transparent cover layer and the embossed base layer.

21. (original): Method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the additional layer is printed on its surface which faces the transparent cover layer before being introduced between the transparent cover layer and the embossed base layer.

22. (previously presented): Method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the base layer is a film.

23. (original): Method as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the base layer is a laminate of at least two films.

24. (previously presented): Method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the transparent cover layer is a film.

25. (original): Method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the transparent cover layer is a laminate of at least two films.

26. (currently amended): Method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the transparent cover layer is additionally embossed on its surface which faces away from the base layer either before or after being joined to the embossed base layer and optionally an additional layer.

27. (previously presented): Method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the joining of the layers is accomplished using temperature and pressure.

28. (previously presented): Method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the transparent cover layer and optionally an additional layer each have a lower softening point than the embossed base layer.

29. (previously presented): Method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the joining of the layers is accomplished by passing the layers between rollers.

30. (original): Method as claimed in Claim 29, wherein the roller in contact with the cover layer is heated and/or the roller in contact with the base layer is not heated or is cooled.

31. (previously presented): Method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the transparent cover layer and optionally an additional layer are preheated before the joining to the embossed base layer.

32. (previously presented): Method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the profile tips of the embossed base layer are wetted with a solvent before being joined to a printed additional layer and the transparent cover layer.

33. (previously presented): Method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the printing of the profile tips of the embossed and printed base layer is removed before joining it to the transparent cover layer.